

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please **amend** paragraph 0035 beginning on page 11 and ending on page 12 of the substitute specification as follows:

**[0035]** By way of ~~examples~~ example of an agent of formula (I) which promotes linking between the silica or combination of silicas and the diene polymer or mixture of diene polymers, mention may be made of the 2,2'-bis(trimethoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis (triethoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(triethoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(tripropoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(tri-sec-butoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the ~~3,3'-bis(tri-tert-butoxyethyl) polysulfides~~ 3,3'-bis(tri-tert-butoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis (triethoxysilylethyltolylene) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxy-silylethyltolylene) polysulfides, the ~~3,3'-bis(trisopropoxypropyl) polysulfides~~ 3,3'-bis(triisopropoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the ~~3,3'-bis (triethoxypropyl) polysulfides~~ 3,3'-bis (triethoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(2'-ethylhexoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(dimethoxy-ethoxysilylethyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(methoxyethoxypropoxysilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(methoxydimethylsilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(cyclohexoxydimethylsilylpropyl) polysulfides, the 4,4'-bis(trimethoxy-silylbutyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxysilyl-3-methylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(tripropoxysilyl-3-methylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxymethylsilyl-3-ethylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxy-silyl-2-methylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(dimethoxyphenylsilyl-2-methylpropyl) polysulfides, the 3,3'-bis(trimethoxysilylcyclohexyl) polysulfides, the 12, 12'-bis(trimethoxysilyldodecyl) polysulfides, the 12, 12'-bis(triethoxysilyl-dodecyl) polysulfides, the 18, 18'-

## PATENT

C1  
bis(trimethoxysilyloctadecyl) polysulfides, the 18, 18'-bis(methoxydimethylsilyloctadecyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(trimethoxysilyl-2-methylethyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(triethoxysilyl-2-methylethyl) polysulfides, the 2,2'-bis(tripropoxysilyl-2-methylethyl) polysulfides, and the 2,2'-bis(trioctoxysilyl-2-methylethyl) polysulfides. Such a linking agent is, e.g., that sold by Degussa under the trade designation Si69 whose average formula is bis(3-triethoxysilylorioyl) tetrasulfide. These polysulfides can be used alone or in a mixture with each other.

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Please **amend** paragraph 0060 on page 19 of the substitute specification as

follows:

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[0060] The same basic formula F1 as in Example 1, and the following ~~three~~ four SSBR's are used.

- C2
- SSBR D:  $T_g = -38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 1,2 content = 41%; styrene content = 26%;  $ML(1+4)_{100^{\circ}} = 70$
  - SSBR E:  $T_g = -38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 1,2 content = 41%; styrene content = 26%; functionalized with hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane (D3);  $ML(1+4)_{100^{\circ}} = 60$
  - SSBR F:  $T_g = -38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 1,2 content = 41%; styrene content = 26%; starred by means of tin tetrachloride;  $ML(1+4)_{100^{\circ}} = 70$
  - SSBR G:  $T_g = -38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; 1,2 content = 41%; styrene content = 26%; functionalized with bis-diethylaminobenzophenone;  $ML(1+4)_{100^{\circ}} = 70$
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Please **amend** paragraph 0077 on page 22 of the substitute specification as

follows:

C3 [0077] Compositions 5, 7, 9, and 11 ~~and 12~~ are control compositions, while

Compositions 6, 8, ~~and 10~~ and 12 are in conformity with the invention

Please **amend** paragraph 0079 on page 24 of the substitute specification as

follows:

C4 [0079] Compositions 6, 8, ~~and 10~~, and 12 according to the invention show that, with any functionalized or starred elastomer, the addition of free amine provides significant improvement

in hysteresis and reinforcement, compared with the properties obtained with the conventional compositions prepared without the addition of free amine, and even in comparison to those which comprise a polymer having aromatic dialkylamine functions at the chain end.